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AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 446th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 1 July 1997, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. de SILVA (Sri Lanka)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FIFTY-SECOND SESSION (continued)

1. Ms. LINGAYA (Madagascar), Rapporteur, introduced the draft report to be issued as document A/52/29 following its adoption by the Committee. The text referred to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 51/51 and to recommendations for the future work of the Committee, which would concentrate on security, confidence-building and economic relations in the light of the 1971 Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. It also mentioned the Committee's decision to maintain summary records of its proceedings and described the productive work done at the current session.

2. Mr. NAKKAWITA (Sri Lanka) proposed that the Committee should adopt the report paragraph by paragraph.

3. It was so decided.

Paragraphs 1 to 11

4. Paragraphs 1 to 11 were adopted.

Paragraph 12

5. Mr. HANIF (Pakistan) proposed that "1994", should be inserted after "during" in the first line.

6. Paragraph 12, as orally amended, was adopted.

Paragraph 13

7. Paragraph 13 was adopted.

Paragraph 14

8. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the phrase "on the future course of action" in the first line should be replaced by "in which he suggested a possible course of action for the Committee".

9. Paragraph 14, as orally amended, was adopted.

Paragraph 15

10. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the heading "D. Recommendations" immediately preceding paragraph 15 should be deleted.

11. It was so decided.

12. Mr. MANICKAM (India) requested that the view expressed by his delegation during the debate, to the effect that discussions of broad security issues,

confidence-building measures and issues of economic cooperation would serve no useful purpose unless the permanent members of the Security Council participated in the Committee's work, should be reflected in the text.

13. Mr. HANIF (Pakistan) said that the view of one delegation could not be presented as the view of all members of the Committee.

14. Mr. NAYECK (Mauritius), supported by Ms. HAMILTON (Australia), suggested that the second sentence of paragraph 15 should read: "It was suggested that, in its future work, the Committee could concentrate on discussions of broad security issues as well as confidence-building measures".

15. Mr. MANICKAM (India) said that his delegation could agree to that formulation. However, it reiterated its view that the consideration of security issues and confidence-building measures would serve no useful purpose without the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council.

16. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the second sentence could go on to indicate that a reservation had been expressed as to the usefulness of that approach, and that it had been suggested that the Chairman should continue his informal consultations with the permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean with regard to their participation in the work of the Committee.

17. Ms. HAMILTON (Australia) said that she could agree to the inclusion of a reference to the reservation expressed by one delegation, but felt that there were already enough references in the draft report to the desirability of broader participation in the Committee's work. Given the doubts of some Committee members as to whether it was practicable to suggest that there should be broader participation, it would be better not to overstress the point.

18. Mr. MANICKAM (India) said that the two parts of the formulation suggested by the Chairman were closely linked and must be retained.

19. Mr. HANIF (Pakistan) said that every member of the Committee had a right to its views; however, the object of the report was to reflect not what one delegation wished to do, but what had happened at the Committee's meetings. The question of consultations regarding participation in the Committee's work could be reflected in paragraph 16.

20. Mr. NAKKAWITA (Sri Lanka) said that there were clearly two views in the Committee: it was essential to have the participation of the three permanent members of the Security Council, and the Committee should not wait for that participation but go on with its work.

21. Ms. HAMILTON (Australia) said that if the delegation of India wanted its reservation to be reflected more fully in paragraph 15, a cross-reference could be made to paragraph 13.

22. Mr. MANICKAM (India) observed that it was not correct to say that a reservation had been expressed.

23. The meeting was suspended at 4.30 p.m. and resumed at 5.40 p.m.

24. The CHAIRMAN suggested that paragraph 15 should read: "A number of delegations made statements in support of the approach outlined in the Chairman's statement, but since no consensus was reached on this, the Chairman was requested to continue informal consultations with the members of the Committee." Paragraph 16 would be deleted and the remaining paragraphs would be renumbered accordingly.

25. Mr. HANIF (Pakistan) asked whether there would be a time-frame for the Chairman's consultations, since the Committee had to report to the First Committee of the General Assembly.

26. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the words "and report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session" could be added at the end of paragraph 15.

27. Paragraph 15, as orally amended, was adopted.

Paragraphs 17 to 19

28. Paragraphs 17 to 19 were adopted.

29. The draft report, as orally amended, was adopted.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.